REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 1/28/2004.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment

and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 22-42 are pending.

Claims 22-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnett et

al. (USP 6,369,840).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The presently claimed invention describes a calendaring system that retrieves up-to-date

information related to a calendar event. When a user creates a new calendar entry or event, the

calendar system determines which topics are related to the event, links the calendar event to

topics that are related to the entry, and then stores the entry and associated topics, allowing the

user to receive up-to-date information on the related topics when the entry is viewed. If a topic

that is related to the calendar event does not exist, it can be created. Since calendar events and

calendar users are able to link to each topic, data searching, retrieval, and storage is reduced.

In the Claims

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The examiner has rejected claims 22-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,396,840 (Barnett et al.), hereafter Barnett. For a claim to be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), each and every element of the claim must be found in a single reference. Barnett fails to provide or suggest many of the claimed elements and therefore is deemed an improper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). While Barnett uses some similar terminology, it is the unique limitations, functions, and interrelationships of the elements used in the claims of the present invention that must be considered.

Barnett discloses a system that allows a user to browse event categories that are of interest and view events that are associated with that category. The user then selects an event of interest and information associated with the selected event, such as the time and date the event is to take place, is viewed by the user. The user may then choose to add the event to his calendar, and the event is placed by the system into his calendar for later viewing.

Barnett does not retrieve information for calendar events as described in the present invention. Barnett requires a user to search categories, retrieve calendar events related to a selected category, and then store event information in a calendar. One result of the claims of the present invention is to eliminate the searching, retrieval, and storing of event information in order to reduce costs. The present invention allows a user to create a calendar event and the system subsequently (not before) searches and matches topics that are related to the created event. Links to those topics are then created, allowing the user to later view up-to-date information on the associated topics of the calendar event. In addition, Barnett does not subscribe electronic calendar events to dynamic information providers; rather, provider information is searched, and

electronic calendar events are chosen according to the requirements and specifications of the user.

As per amended claim 22, the system in Barnett does not map electronic calendar events to an outside topic publisher. In the present invention, a user creates a calendar event, such as a trip to Boston, MA and it is received by the system. The system then automatically maps the entry to services such as weather and flight schedules (topic names). From those services, topic channels are determined so that a link can be created to constantly provide up-to-date information for weather and flight schedules related to Boston, MA. Barnett fails to provide the element of identifying one or more topic channels which are associated with said topic names as suggested by the examiner. Rather, Barnett requires the user to search information topics in order to see the already scheduled calendar events that are available to add to his own calendar. The examiner provides column 10, lines 15-20 and 23-43 and figure 15 as correlating with this feature. However, a closer reading of the citations and the reference in its entirety discloses that the Barnett reference merely discusses the collection of event data. It does not describe searching or identifying channels for related information as in the present invention. Further, Barnett does not provide or suggest a subscription or link to topic channels that are found to be related to the calendar event. The examiner points to column 11, lines 28-31 and figures 7A and 7B of Barnett. However, this description discusses the user accessing events in which the user has pre-defined as favorite events or events of interest. Barnet does not disclose the linking of calendar events and topic channels as described in the present invention. In the present invention, the system incorporates a link such that messages are frequently updated and associated with the calendar event. However, in Barnett, the user is required to search for additional information related to the calendar entry. Overall, Barnett teaches away from the present invention's goal of

eliminating data searching, retrieval, and storage of related information. Therefore, as Barnett does not provide each and every element of the claim, the rejection is improper.

Claims 24 and 26 (amended) have been noted by the examiner as describing a method of identifying at least one event category or characteristic in order to determine topic channels, particularly in column 9, lines 48-67 and column 10, lines 23-28 of Barnett. However, a closer reading of the citations and the Barnett reference in its entirety discloses that the Barnett reference merely discusses an event directory screen that displays hyperlinks to a user, such that the user may obtain more information by subscribing to events that are scheduled by outside companies or schedulers. The events described in Barnett are already scheduled and presented to the user in a directory. This teaches away from the present invention. The present invention allows a user to create a unique entry, and from that entry the system provides links that are related to the event such that the user may receive service messages associated with the event. Barnett fails to discuss the use of the system to determine related categories, characteristics, or topic channels as in the present invention. Furthermore, claims 24 and 26 are dependent on claim 1, and, as Barnett does not disclose a method of identifying and incorporating topics that are related to a calendar event, and the rejection is deemed improper.

Claim 27 (amended) is described by the examiner as being taught by column 10, lines 54-67 and column 11, lines 1-3 in Barnett. Here, Barnett discloses the use of servers using event cache to provide improved performance and allowing user to access the event cache. Specifically, the apparatus receives event feed from content partners and stores the events in a database, implementing them as a collection of programs and scripts for automated operation and import of event data. Once an event has been cached, event data can be accessed from the cache

or the database if needed. Claim 27, however, is directed toward creating and opening a link to one or more topic channels of a particular event should one not already exist. Barnett does not disclose the method of creating a link according a user-input calendar event here in these lines nor anywhere in the disclosure, and therefore is not a proper rejection. Also, claim 27 is dependent on claim 22, and, as already noted, Barnett does not provide each and every element of the claimed invention.

Claims 29-32 are dependent on claim 22 and therefore the above arguments apply to each of these dependent claims. Therefore, reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

For claim 33, the examiner has argued that column 10, lines 54-67 and column 11, lines 3-7 in Barnett disclose the elements of determining and creating a topic channel. Again, Barnett discloses that the apparatus receives event feed from content partners and stores the events in a database, implementing them as a collection of programs and scripts for automated operation and import of event data. Once an event has been cached, event data can be accessed from the cache or the database if needed. As previously noted, Barnett requires a user to search categories, retrieve calendar events related to a selected category, and then store event information in a calendar. The present invention obtains information from topic providers that is related to a calendar event (e.g. weather conditions). If information is not readily available, the present invention creates a corresponding link (with a provider). Barnett, however, obtains calendar events from partners/providers, that is, events that the providers create, and allows a user to view information related to the event (such as date and time the event is to take place) before adding the event as a calendar entry. Further, Barnett does not disclose incorporating a link as described in the claim within a calendar event to topic channels.

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As claims 34-38 are dependent on claim 33, the above arguments substantially apply to each of the dependent claims. Therefore, reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested. Furthermore, the examiner has provided similar citations from the Barnett reference for claims 39-42. As claims 39-42 of the present invention provide for many of the limitations associated with claims 22-32, the argument presented for claims 22-32 substantially apply to claim 39-42, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It has been shown that Barnett does not disclose each and every element of the present invention; particularly, at least the following claimed features: identifying one or more topic channels associated with topic names; incorporating a link to topic channels of a calendar event; and frequently updating messages for topic names and channels that are associated with a calendar event. As such, Barnett does not provide the claimed elements as required under 35 U.S.C. ə 102(e) or, alternatively, does not suggest these features.
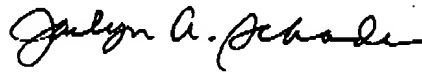
As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicant's presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 12-0010.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not

hesitate to contact applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

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